REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-13, and 15-24 were previously pending in the application. Claims 3 and 15 are canceled; and claims 1, 4, 13, and 16 are amended herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-13, and 16-24 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending (now canceled) claim 3. As such, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 3 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner indicated that previously pending claim 3 was directed to allowable subject matter, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 4-12 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of previously pending (now canceled) claim 15. As such, currently amended claim 13 is equivalent to previously pending claim 15 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner indicated that previously pending claim 15 was directed to allowable subject matter, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 13 is allowable. Since claims 16-24 depend variously from claim 13, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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